

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY ROME

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 3 USNATO 2783

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL NATO DPC

SUBJECT: DPC MEETING MAY 15, 1975- COMMUNICATIONS AND OVER-
FLIGHTS IN THE SOUTHERN REGION

REF: A. STATE 113003

B. USNATO 2321

SUMMARY: AT MEETING MAY 15, DPC RETURNED TO DISCUSSION OF
TURKISH RECOMMENDATION FOR ADDRESSING DEFENSE SHORTCOMINGS
AS A RESULT OF GREEK WITHDRAWAL FROM THE NATO INTEGRATED
MILITARY STRUCTURE. DISCUSSION WAS MARKED BY CONCERN EXPRESSED
BY SEVERAL PERMREPS THAT EARLY AND DEFINITIVE ACTIONS OF TURK-
RECOMMENDATIONS MIGHT PREJUDICE THE GREECE/NATO DISCUSSIONS.
ALTHOUGH RECOGNIZING THE INTERRELATIONSHIP INVOLVED,
AMB ERALP(TURKEY) AGAIN STRESSED THE URGENCY HIS COUNTRY
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ATTACHES TO RESOLVING THE DIFFICULTIES, AND EXPRESSED HIS
COUNTRYS VIEW THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF SOME OF THE SPECIFIC
PROPOSALS MADE TO DPC ON APRIL 25 WOULD NOT AFFECT GREECES
STATUS. AMB BRUCE (US) PROVIDED DPC WITH WASHINGTON VIEWS

REF A. DPC AGREED TO CONTINUE FOR THE TIME BEING AN APPROACH LIMITED TO IMS ANALYSIS OF TURKISH PROPOSALS AND WILL RETURN TO THIS SUBJECT FOLLOWING THE MINISTERIAL MEETINGS. SOME PERMREPS FAVORED A MILITARY COMMITTEE (MC) GROUP OF 13, ADDRESSING TURKEY'S LONGER RANGE PROBLEMS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NATO/ GREECE NEGOTIATIONS. WE SEE A POTENTIAL PROBLEM IN THIS APPROACH BUT FEEL THAT THE COURSE TO FOLLOW WILL BE MORE APPARENT AFTER MINISTERIAL MEETINGS. END SUMMARY.

1. SYG LUNS LED OFF DISCUSSION BY ENDORSING THE VIEW, EXPRESSED BY SEVERAL AT APRIL 25 DPC MEETING, THAT THE NATURE OF GREECE'S RELATIONSHIP IN THE ALLIANCE MUST BE CLARIFIED AS SOON POSSIBLE. HE SUGGESTED THAT A GROUP OF MC REPS, EXCLUDING THE GREEK MILREP, COULD STUDY SOME OF THE BORDER TURKISH PROPOSALS. IN THE MEANTIME, LUNS FELT THE IMS SHOULD CONTINUE ITS INVESTIGATION OF TECHNICAL ASPECTS.

2. AMB PECK (UK) STATED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES FULLY RECOGNIZE THE SERIOUSNESS OF TURKEY'S PROBLEMS AND BELIEVE THAT NATO MUST TAKE THESE PROBLEMS INTO ACCOUNT DURING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GREEKS. THE UK FIRMLY SUPPORTS IMS STUDY OF THE TURKISH PROPOSALS, BUT WILL NEED TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY THE RESULTS BEFORE TAKING A POSITION ON THEM.

3. DRAWING ON REF A, AMB BRUCE PROVIDED THE DPC WITH WASHINGTON'S VIEWS AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN QUOTE:

THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT ASSESSED THE TECHNICAL IMPLICATION OF THE TURKISH PROPOSALS, BUT IS KEENLY AWARE OF THE EXISTING PROBLEMS AS OUTLINED BY AMBASSADOR ERALP ON APRIL 25.

ALTHOUGH RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MATTER, WE WOULD PREFER TO DEAL WITH SOME OF THE PROPOSALS WHEN THE GREECE/ NATO DISCUSSIONS HAVE MADE MORE PROGRESS. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE CERTAIN PROPOSALS COULD BE LOOKED INTO NOW.

THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT CONDONE INTERRUPTION OF NATO
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COMMUNICATIONS BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS AND IS SYMPATHETIC TO THE TURKISH VIEW THAT ALTERNATIVE WAYS ARE NEEDED TO LINK TURKEY WITH NATO COMMUNICATIONS AND EARLY WARNING. THE SPECIFIC CIRCUITRY WHICH TURKEY PROPOSED MUST BE EXAMINED. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE WOULD WELCOME AN ASSESSMENT BY THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES OF THE TECHNICAL AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS BEFORE TAKING A POSITION ON THE VOICE AND TELEGRAPH CIRCUITS DISCUSSED IN PARAGRAPH 1 OF THE TURKISH PROPOSALS.

WITH REGARD TO AIR DEFENSE OF THE SOUTHEASTERN REGION, THE UNITED STATES SEES ADVANTAGES TO ESTABLISHING A CONNECTION BETWEEN TURKISH AND NATO AIR DEFENSE SYSTEMS TO ASSURE EXCHANGE OF EARLY WARNING INFORMATION.

WE WOULD ALSO WELCOME NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES PROPOSALS TO COPE WITH EXISTING AIR DEFENSE DIFFICULTIES IN THIS REGION. WE ARE NOT NOW IN A POSITION TO COMMENT ON RELATED TURKISH VIEWS CONCERNING REORGANIZATION OF AIR DEFENSE RESPONSIBILITIES. WE RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS QUESTION BUT BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE ADDRESSED AFTER THE FUTURE GREEK ROLE IN NATO IS CLARIFIED.

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WE SHARE TURKEY'S CONCERNS THAT AIR LINKS BETWEEN EUROPE AND TURKEY HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY COMPLICATED BY GREEK POLICIES WITH REGARD TO GREEK AIR SPACE AND THE ATHENS FLIGHT INFORMATION REGION (FIR). WE AGREE THAT IT WOULD BE IN THE INTERESTS OF THE ALLIANCE AS WELL AS TURKEY IF PARTIES CONCERNED WOULD RESCIND OR LIFT THE NOTAMS (NOTICE TO AIRMEN) IN EFFECT TO ALLOW USE OF NORMAL AIR ROUTES BETWEEN TURKEY AND ITS NATO ALLIES. WE WOULD ALSO EXPECT NATO OVERFLIGHTS TO BE PART OF THE GREECE/NATO DISCUSSIONS.

ON NATO EXERCISES, THE UNITED STATES REGRETS THAT TURKEY WAS UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN WINTEX 75 AND HOPES THAT FUTURE CONDITIONS WILL PERMIT TURKEY TO MAINTAIN ITS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT PARTICIPATION IN ALLIED EXERCISES. AGAIN, WE BELIEVE A CLARIFICATION OF THE GREECE/NATO RELATIONSHIP WILL BE A KEY TO THE NORMAL CONDUCT OF NATO EXERCISES.

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FINALLY, ON DEFENSE PLANS, THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AT THIS TIME TO ASK THE MILITARY COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR ALTERING EXISTING NATO PLANNING FOR THE SOUTHERN REGION IN THE EVENT OF ACTUAL AND TOTAL WITHDRAWAL OF GREECE FROM NATOS INTEGRATED MILITARY STRUCTURE. GREECES FUTURE ROLE NEEDS TO BE DEFINED, AND TO INITIATE SUCH AN EFFORT NOW WOULD TEND TO PREJUDGE THE OUTCOME OF THE GREECE/NATO DISCUSSIONS.
END QUOTE.

4. BECAUSE OF LIMITED OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY THE US COMMENTS, DPC DISCUSSION WAS CONFINED TO ERALPS OBSERVATION THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WILL HAVE TO STUDY THE US POSITION. HOWEVER, AT FIRST GLANCE, NOTED THE US SEEMS TO FAVOR A DELAY IN ADDRESSING THE SERIOUS PROPOSALS HE HAS SET FORTH. ERALP TOOK EXCEPTION TO THE US PARAGRAPH ON NOTAMS, REMARKING THAT TURKEYS NOTAM 714 DOES NOT APPLY TO AIR TRAFFIC OVER LAND AND THE BASIC PROBLEM IS GREECES NOTAM. AT THIS POINT, COUNCIL OPERATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR (MACBRIEN) POINTED OUT THAT THE UNFAVOURABLE SITUATION ARISING OUT OF THE GREEK NOTAM 1018 IS NOT ENTIRELY A MILITARY QUESTION AS IT DIRECTLY INVOLVES CIVIL FLIGHTS AS WELL. HE HAS RAISED THE PROBLEM SEVERAL TIMES IN THE COUNCIL OPERATIONS AND EXERCISE COMMITTEE (COEC) BUT THE GREEKS REFUSE EVEN TO DISCUSS IT FURTHER. GIVEN THIS ATTITUDE, HE DID NOT SEE WHAT THE DPC COULD DO TO SOLVE THE OVERFLIGHTS PROBLEM. LUNS WAS INCLINED TO AGREE.

5. AMB DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) RECALLING A RECENT (MAY 12) INFORMAL MEETING AT WHICH THE GREEK AMBASSADOR WAS PRESENT, ASKED THE DPC TO CONSIDER THE FORUM FOR HANDLING NATOS DISCUSSIONS WITH GREECE. HIS IMPRESSION WAS THAT CERTAIN GREEK IDEAS WOULD BE SUBMITTED SOON TO A GROUP OF 13 AND, IF THIS IS THE CASE, THE LONGER TERM TURKISH DEFENSE PROPOSALS SHOULD GO TO A SIMILAR MC GROUP OF 13. THIS MC GROUP, THEN, COULD SEE WHAT SHOULD BE DONE TO ADDRESS TURKEYS DEFENSE SHORTCOMINGS IN THE LIGHT OF DISCUSSIONS ON RELATED GREEK ISSUES. MEANWHILE, THE IMS STUDY ON CERTAIN TURKISH SHORT TERM PROPOSALS SHOULD PROCEED WITH A HIGH PRIORITY TO DEMONSTRATE TO ERALP THAT THE DPC IS SERIOUS IN ADDRESSING TURKEYS DEFENSE DIFFICULTIES.

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6. RETURNING TO THE FLIGHT INFORMATION REGION (FIR) QUESTION AMB CATALANO (ITALY) ASKED WHY GREECE WOULD NOT AGREE TO REOPENING ITS PORTION OF AIRWAY G-12. COUNCIL OPERATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR SAID HE COULD NOT ANSWER DIRECTLY, BUT STATED THAT GREECE HAD REESTABLISHED SOME FIR COMMUNICATIONS

IN THIS AREA, SPECIFICALLY THE AFTN (AERONAUTICAL FIXED TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK) CLASS 2 IN ATHENS.

7. AMB MENZIES (CANADA SUPPORTED DE STAERCKES VIEW THAT PRIORITIES EXIST IN TURKEYS DEFENSE PROBLEMS, AND THAT COMMUNICATIONS AND AIR DEFENSE ARE MORE URGENT THAN, FOR EXAMPLE, EXERCISES OR DEFENSE PLANS. ALSO, HE BELIEVED THAT THE NATO MILITARY ASPECT OF OVERFLIGHTS IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE CIVIL AND THAT BOTH THE MC AND THE COEC SHOULD EXAMINE PROBLEMS IN ORDER OF PRIORITY.

8. AMB SVART (DENMARK) ASKED IF IT WAS INTENDED FOR THE MC OR THE IMS TO EXAMINE THE MORE URGENT TURKISH PROBLEMS OF COMMUNICATIONS AND AIR DEFENSE. HE STATED HIS AUTHORITIES COULD ACCEPT THE IMS WORKING ON THESE, BUT NOT THE MC, EVEN IN A GROUP OF 13. MC CHAIRMAN ADMIRAL SIR PETER HILL NORTON REPLIED THAT HIS INTENTION WAS FOR A VERY SMALL IMS GROUP FIRST TO LOOK INTO WHAT MUST BE DONE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO EASE ALLIANCE AND TURKISH PROBLEMS IN AREAS SUCH AS COMMUNICATIONS AND AIR DEFENSE; AS A MATTER OF FACT, HE NOTED, A PRELIMINARY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT IS ALREADY IN HAND. THEN THIS IMS GROUP WILL EXAMINE OTHER ASPECTS OF THE TURKISH SHOPPING LIST. IN ITS WORK, THE IMS GROUP WILL MAINTAIN ONLY VERY LOW LEVEL CONTACTS WITH GREEK AND TURKISH REPRESENTATIVES, SO AS NOT TO PRESSURE EITHER. HILL NORTON HOPED THIS WAS ACCEPTABLE TO ERALP, WHO DID NOT COMMENT. CONCERNING THE WIDER PICTURE, WHICH DEPENDS ON THE NATURE OF GREECE FUTURE RELATIONSHIP IN THE MILITARY STRUCTURE, HILL NORTON DID NOT INTEND TO ADDRESS THIS ASPECT UNTIL AFTER THE MINISTERIAL MEETINGS. IN THIS REGARD, HE ASKED FOR DPC ADVICE ON HOW TO PROCEED, KEEPING IN MIND THE DANGER OF PREJUDICING THE GREEK NEGOTIATIONS.

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9. AFTER CLARIFYING THAT SVARTS INSISTENCE ON RELYING ON THE IMS DID NOT APPLY TO THE LONGER RANGE ISSUES (I E , THOSE DEPENDING ON GREECES FUTURE RELATIONSHIP), DE STAERCKE AGAIN EXPRESSED HIS VIEW THAT THE MC AT 13 SHOULD TACKEL THIS MORE DISTANT SPECT. ERALP, ALTHOUGH NOT BLOCKING THIS APPROACH, EMPHASIZED HIS AUTHORITIES VIEW THAT AN AD HOC GROUP OF MIL REPS SHOULD ADDRESS TURKEYS PROBLEMS AS A MATTER OF HIGH PRIORITY. IN THIS CONNECTION, ERALP NOTED THAT SOME SOLUTIONS, SUCH AS ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATIONS LINKS, COULD HELP TURKEY NOW AND, IF GREECE WERE TO REJOIN THE FOLD, WOULD STILL BE OF VALUE TO THE ALLINACE, EVEN THE GREEKS.

10. COMMENT: UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF DE STAERCKE, AND WITH LUNS CUTTING DISCUSSION OFF BEFORE IT BECAME MORE IN-CONCLUSIVE, THE DPC REACHED APPARENT CONSENSUS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE IMS WORK WOULD CONTINUE AND THA THE DPC WOULD RETURN TO SECRET

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LONGER RANGE QUESTIONS AFTER THE MINISTERIAL MEETINGS. WE BELIEVE THAT AFTER THE SUMMIT SOME OF THESE TOUCHY PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS WILL BE OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS. APPARENTLY THE TURKS ARE RESIGNED TO THE DELAY OCCASIONAED BY THE MINISTERIAL MEETINGS AND, IF THE GROUP OF 13 BEGIN MOVING SOON ON THE NATO/GREECE NEGOTIATIONS, IT WILL BECOME MORE CLEAR WHETHER A PARALLEL MC GROUP OF 13 COULD HANDLE THE BROADER ASPECTS OF TURKEYS PROBLEMS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE REDEFINITION OF GREECES FUTURE ROLE. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE GREEKS STILL PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE MC AND WE ARE AWARE OF GREEK SENSITIVITIES AS EXPRESSED IN THE MC CHIEFS OF STAFF RESTRICTED SESSION MAY 13 (USDELMC MSG 405/75 DTG 151500Z MAY 75), CONCERNING PARTICIPATION IN ALL MC DISCUSSIONS RELATING TO THE SOUTHERN REGION. ANY EXLCUSION OF THE GREEK MILREP IN DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING THAT AREA, EVEN IF THESE DISCUSSIONS WERE IN A SMALL, PRIVAT CONTEXT, MIGHT ADVERSELY AFFECT FUTURE GREECE/NATO RELATIONS. END COMMENT. BRUCE

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